

Erstarrung verhindern; und ist er gar insgesamt ein denkender Schneeball, so wird er überhaupt nicht Meinungen, sondern nur Gewissheiten und genau bemessene Wahrscheinlichkeiten in seinem Kopfe haben. - Aber wir, die wir gemischten Wesens sind und bald vom Feuer durchglüht, bald vom Geiste durchkältet sind, wollen vor der Gerechtigkeit knien, als der einzigen Göttin, welche wir über uns anerkennen. Das Feuer in uns macht uns für gewöhnlich ungerecht und, im Sinne jener Göttin, unrein; nie dürfen wir in diesem Zustande ihre Hand fassen, nie liegt dann das ernste Lächeln ihres Wohlgefallens auf uns. Wir verehren sie als die verhüllte Isis unsers Lebens; beschämt bringen wir ihr unsern Schmerz als Busse und Opfer dar, wenn das Feuer uns brennt und verzehren will. Der Geist ist es, der uns rettet, dass wir nicht ganz verglühen und verkohlen; er reisst uns hier und da fort von dem Opferaltare der Gerechtigkeit oder hüllt uns in ein Gespinnst aus Asbest. Vom Feuer erlöst, schreiten wir dann, durch den Geist getrieben von Meinung zu Meinung, durch den Wechsel der Parteien, als edle Verräther aller Dinge, die überhaupt verrathen werden können - und dennoch ohne ein Gefühl von Schuld.

638.

Der Wanderer. - Wer nur einigermaassen zur Freiheit der Vernunft gekommen ist, kann sich auf Erden nicht anders fühlen, denn als Wanderer, - wenn auch nicht als Reisender nach einem letzten Ziele: denn dieses giebt es nicht. Wohl aber will er zusehen und die Augen dafür offen haben, was Alles in der Welt eigentlich vorgeht; deshalb darf er sein Herz nicht allzufest an alles Einzelne anhängen; es muss in ihm selber etwas Wanderndes sein, das seine Freude an dem Wechsel und der Vergänglichkeit habe. Freilich werden einem solchen Menschen böse Nächte kommen, wo er müde ist und das Thor der Stadt, welche ihm Rast bieten sollte, verschlossen findet; vielleicht, dass noch dazu, wie im Orient, die Wüste bis an das Thor reicht, dass die Raubthiere bald ferner bald näher her heulen, dass ein starker Wind sich erhebt, dass Räuber ihm seine Zugthiere wegführen. Dann sinkt für ihn wohl die schreckliche Nacht wie eine zweite Wüste auf die Wüste, und sein Herz wird des Wanderns müde. Geht ihm dann die Morgensonne auf, glühend wie eine Gottheit des Zornes, öffnet sich die Stadt, so sieht er in den Gesichtern der hier Hausenden vielleicht noch mehr Wüste, Schmutz, Trug, Unsicherheit, als vor den Thoren - und der Tag ist fast schlimmer, als die Nacht. So mag es wohl einmal dem Wanderer ergehen; aber dann kommen, als Entgelt, die wonnevollen Morgen anderer Gegenden und Tage, wo er schon im Grauen des Lichtes die Musenschwärme im Nebel des Gebirges nahe an sich vorübertanzen sieht, wo ihm nachher, wenn er still, in dem Gleichmaass der Vormittagsseele, unter Bäumen sich ergeht, aus deren Wipfeln und Laubverstecken heraus lauter gute und helle Dinge zugeworfen werden, die Geschenke aller jener freien Geister, die in Berg, Wald und Einsamkeit zu Hause sind und welche, gleich ihm, in ihrer bald fröhlichen bald nachdenklichen Weise, Wanderer und Philosophen sind. Geboren aus den Geheimnissen der Frühe, sinnen sie darüber nach, wie der Tag zwischen dem zehnten und zwölften Glockenschlage ein so reines, durchleuchtetes, verklärt-heiteres Gesicht haben könne: - sie suchen die Philosophie des Vormittages.

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Unter Freunden.

Ein Nachspiel.

1.

Schön ist's, mit einander schweigen, Schöner, mit einander lachen, - Unter seidenem Himmels-Tuche Hingelehnt zu Moos und Buche Lieblich laut mit Freunden lachen Und sich weisse Zähne zeigen. Macht' ich's gut, so woll'n wir schweigen; Macht' ich's schlimm -, so woll'n wir lachen Und es immer schlimmer machen, Schlimmer machen, schlimmer lachen, Bis wir in die Grube steigen. Freunde! ja! So soll's geschehn? - Amen! Und auf Wiedersehn!

2.

Kein Entschuld'gen! Kein Verzeihen! Gönnst ihr Frohen, Herzens-Freien Diesem unvernünfft'gen Buche Ohr und Herz und Unterkunft! Glaubt mir, Freunde, nicht zum Fluche Ward mir meine Unvernunft! Was ich finde, was ich suche - Stand das je in einem Buche? Ehrt in mir die Narren-Zunft! Lernt aus diesem Narrenbuche, Wie Vernunft kommt - "zur Vernunft"! Also, Freunde, soll's geschehn? - Amen! Und auf Wiedersehn!

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